

call of our Nation. We give tribute to their faithfulness to the ideals of freedom and democracy, even when the winds of war blew with increasing uncertainty.

We pray for those who, in the ambiguity of conflict, found themselves facing unimaginable ethical dilemmas and who are now left with indelible moral trauma. Bless those who yet tend to lingering physical and emotional injury. Give each of them peace when the nightmares overwhelm and the echoes of battle resound in their slumber.

May all who returned unwelcomed find themselves received into Your warm embrace and upheld by Your loving and everlasting arms. In Your mercy, sanctify the lives of those who remain missing in action and preserve the memory of the ones who never made it home.

Grant eternal rest to those comrades ever memorialized on granite walls and gravestones across the country. May they now know Your peace.

Holy and merciful God, mend the wounds of war, both seen and unseen, individual and corporate—that as we commemorate this anniversary, we would acknowledge the cost of war and honor the value of peace.

In the everlasting strength of Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HOULAHAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING RYAN REDINGTON

(Mr. TIFFANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryan Redington on winning the 2023 Iditarod Sled Dog Race, traveling almost 1,000 miles in 8 days, 21 hours, 12 minutes, and 58 seconds.

Ryan has competed in the Iditarod 16 times, and although he may not be

from Wisconsin's Seventh District, he spends his fall and winter utilizing the lands in Douglas County to train his sled dogs for the race.

This is not the Redington family's first time in the Iditarod. Ryan's grandfather is one of the cofounders of the race and is now known as the Father of the Iditarod.

Ryan has shown us what patience and dedication look like after recovering from being hit by a snowmobile last year, and I am pleased that my district got to assist in bringing him and his dogs to victory.

Congratulations, Ryan, on achieving your lifelong dream.

EXPLOITING MEDICARE THROUGH ACO REACH

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, corporate profiteers have no place in Medicare, but some private insurers don't give patients a choice.

The Biden administration has taken important steps to change the direct contracting model, which stripped seniors of traditional Medicare and moved them to private coverage—without their consent.

Its successor program, ACO REACH, still invites private actors to exploit Medicare to boost their bottom lines. For-profit insurers can pocket taxpayer dollars that they don't spend on their patients. Too many have long histories of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Now, the administration is expanding ACO REACH, including doubling its coverage of underserved communities. As a result, millions on Medicare may soon face higher costs, smaller provider networks, and worse care.

Strong guardrails are needed now, and I urge my colleagues to stand up for patients and get corporate greed out of Medicare.

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF PARENTS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, parents everywhere must have the ability to make educational decisions for their children. Though an obvious right, unfortunately, many school districts have been influenced by extremist special interest groups ignoring parental wishes.

In response, House Republicans, led by Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX, passed the Parents Bill of Rights Act. This legislation will make clear to schools that parents have a right to know what is being taught to their children, be heard by teachers and school boards, see the school budget and spending, protect the privacy of children, and keep their children safe.

As a parent of four sons, Roxanne and I appreciate local elected school boards running schools. As a grandfather, I want my sons and daughters-in-law to have the same level of oversight for our nine grandchildren.

I am grateful for the leadership of Ellen Weaver, the South Carolina Superintendent of Education, a champion for the rights of parents.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the safe haven of Afghanistan to America.

God bless our Vietnam veterans.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

(Ms. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, this Friday is International Transgender Day of Visibility, a time each year when we uplift and recognize the strength and resilience of the trans community.

The United States is home to 1.6 million trans youth and adults—1.6 million siblings, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends, coworkers, and loved ones.

At a moment when trans-Americans are under direct attack in States across our Nation and in this body, I am here today to honor and celebrate each of these courageous, inspiring human beings just trying to live and be treated with dignity and respect.

I am here to say to each of you, no matter what you are hearing in your communities or from some Members of this body, you are loved, you are valued, and you are worthy.

Over the past 40 years, our country has made progress, but this is a moment and a critical reminder that we still have work to do.

As we mark International Trans Day of Visibility, we also remember that we must never take our feet off the gas pedal when it comes to this critical fight.

Please know I am always in your corner.

A SAD DAY FOR WOMEN'S SPORTS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, ESPN celebrated Women's History Month by putting out a tweet celebrating swimmer Lia Thomas. The only problem, Lia Thomas is not a woman.

Lia, whose real name is William, is a man pretending to be a woman, ranked about 400 in men's swimming, but now about number 1 in women's.

This individual identifying as a woman was allowed to compete in women's swimming for the University of Pennsylvania. Consequently, this

person won a national title that should have gone to a female athlete.

Instead of denouncing this farcical nonsense, ESPN decided to celebrate it. It is a sad day for women's sports when our Nation's premier sports broadcaster chooses to celebrate biological males competing in women's sports.

The evidence is overwhelming that males have competitive athletic advantage over females. It, therefore, makes zero sense to allow men to compete in women's sports.

Do you call this progress? Certainly not for women athletes.

END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, every day across America, millions of seniors take their medicines on an empty stomach. They are hungry, on a fixed income, can't drive—and their fridges, pocketbooks, and wallets are empty.

If they are lucky, they have people like Janice Pierce and Maggie Woodward in their corner.

Last week, I joined Janice and Maggie to deliver meals to seniors in Oakham, Massachusetts. They are one of thousands of Meals on Wheels chapters in America.

Experts tell us that seniors who are hungry are more likely to get sick and be admitted to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, programs like Meals on Wheels aren't nice; they are a necessity. While they do good work, America's seniors shouldn't have to get lucky. Their health outcomes shouldn't be determined by whether heroes like Janice and Maggie live around the corner.

Congress needs to strengthen, not cut, programs like Meals on Wheels, as some of my Republican friends are proposing.

In the richest country in the history of the world, our seniors deserve no less.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

HONORING THE HEROES OF WEST READING, PENNSYLVANIA

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, tragedy struck my community when an explosion rocked the R.M. Palmer chocolate factory in West Reading, claiming the lives of seven people and injuring many others.

Most people know Palmer chocolate for their Easter bunnies and other holi-

day treats, but we know them as an important part of our community.

Since the tragedy, our first responders have been heroes.

Our neighbors, nonprofits, and local businesses have set up programs to help and, in some cases, literally have given the shirts off their backs for those who were impacted.

Similarly, and also not surprisingly in our community, government leaders at the local, State, and Federal levels are also on the ground, collaborating together to support our community and recovery.

I speak today full of grief for the families and friends of those whom we have lost, and I speak today full of gratitude for the strength and dedication of so many in our community who are doing so much.

We see you, and we honor you. We are very proud to stand with you.

SUPPORT LOWER ENERGY COSTS

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, Americans have been hit hard by the high fuel prices caused by the Biden administration's anti-energy policies.

Today, Virginia families are paying \$3.30 a gallon at the pump for regular gasoline, over a dollar more than when President Biden took office. That is why we are bringing to the floor H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act. This legislation will reduce costs by increasing domestic energy production, cutting burdensome red tape, and reforming the permitting process.

Folks, it is evident that Joe Biden has waged war on America's energy independence. That war ends today.

House Republicans are working to put America back in the driver's seat of energy production by voting for the Lower Energy Costs Act so families can keep more of their hard-earned paychecks.

I urge every one of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, March 29, to commemorate Vietnam War Veterans Day and honor those who served in this conflict.

We acknowledge and deeply appreciate the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers, their families, and the communities that supported them.

We also need to make sure that we honor our POW-MIA Gold Star families who lost their loved ones or still endure the uncertainty of their fate during the war.

In addition to representing a large community of Vietnam vets, I have the

distinct honor of having a Gold Star daughter, Maureen Hickman Caporaso, serve in my office. Her father, United States Air Force Captain Vincent J. Hickman, is one of the 1,553 service-members still unaccounted for to this day.

We must never forget the sacrifices of these families, and we must do everything in our power to continue searching and bring closure to those who still wait for their loved ones to return.

Why keep searching after all these years? Because you never leave a fallen American behind.

To the veterans of the Vietnam war, we offer a long-overdue welcome home. We honor your courage and your commitment to our country, and we thank you for your unwavering dedication to defending our freedom.

Today, let us recognize the immense sacrifices made by our servicemembers, their families, and the entire Nation during the Vietnam war.

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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF REINDEER

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Benevolent Protective Order of Reindeer.

This organization is one of New Jersey's oldest African-American fraternal organizations. It was founded in 1923 in response to the prejudice in other animal lodges.

Early organizations named after animals would not let African Americans become members, so the Benevolent Protective Order of Reindeer was formed and invited everyone to join.

Today, the organization's principles of service, unity, and charity are represented in its exceptional social work. In addition, it provides scholarships for worthy students and engages in community activism to fight for social justice.

The Benevolent Protective Order of Reindeer is an outstanding organization in my district, and I am proud to celebrate its 100th anniversary on the House floor today.

IN SUPPORT OF LABOR UNIONS

(Mr. MAGAZINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, one of the best ways for workers to get the pay and benefits that they deserve and to raise their families and provide for them is to join a labor union.

Unions have helped millions of American families join the middle class, including thousands in Rhode Island. The